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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 DHA-02 IO-13 EB-07 TRSE-00
OMB-01 ACDA-07 COME-00 OES-07 /099 W
----------182044Z 067049 /75
R 181820Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1684
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 3989

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERRANCE A.)
SUBJ: CONCLUDING PRESS COMMENTARY ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S VISIT

REF: A. RIO DE JANEIRO 2265 B. SAO PAULO 1233
C. BRASILIA 3888 D. BRASILIA 3883 E. BRASILIA 3894
F. BRASILIA 3935

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE INITIAL PERCEPTIONS OF OFFICIAL COOLNESS TOWARD TODMAN VISIT AND STRAIN OVER MISINTERPRETED STATEMENTS IN CARACAS, PRESS VIEWS AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT WERE GENERALLY POSITIVE. VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAS BEEN CREDITED BY SOME ANALYSTS WITH BRINGING TO END BRIEF PERIOD OF DISRUPTION IN GOB-USG RELATIONS BY HIS NOTING IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF BRAZIL AND IMPLYING TO PRESS THAT MOU WOULD LEAD TO BROADER CONSULTATIONS. ONE COLUMNIST CONCLUDED THAT SILVEIRA HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BY LOFTY WORDS OF KISSINGER, BUT THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHILE IT SAID LESS, WAS MORE FRANK AND SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT IT SAID. IN APPARENT LEAK FROM FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE, ANOTHER COLUMNIST DID NOTE THAT WHEN SILVEIRA ASKED ABOUT
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FUTURE OF MOU, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAD RESPONDED HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT WOULD FIND OUT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY WAS COMPLIMENTED BY PRESS FOR HIS GOOD HUMOR AND LACK OF OSTENTATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SUMMARIZING ANALYSIS OF TODMAN VISIT, ESTADO DE SAO PAULO DIPLOMATIC SPECIALIST CARLOS CONDE MAY 15 CONCLUDED THAT THE CONDITIONS FOR RENEWING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN

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THE GOB AND US HAVE BEEN CREATED, AND THAT, IN HIS LIMITED
CONTACTS WITH PRESS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAID EVERYTHING
THE GOB COULD HAVE HOPED FOR AND MORE. IN FIRST PLACE
TODMAN DISAVOWED COMMENTS HE WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE MADE IN
VENEZUELA DENIGRATING BRAZIL'S ROLE IN LATIN AMERICA
(REF F). SECONDLY, IN FIELD HUMAN RIGHTS TODMAN
MADE POINT OF TELLING PRESS THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS RESPON-
DING TO CONGRESSIONAL DEMAND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT AND THAT
RELATIVE TO OTHER STATES REPORT ON BRAZIL WAS NOT SO SERIOUS.
THIRDLY, TODMAN'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT NUCLEAR
ENERGY RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT AND OBLIGATION OF BRAZIL
TO RESPOND TO ITS PREDICTED ENERGY PROBLEMS. (ESTADO
DAY BEFORE HAD NOTED TODMAN'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT
HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR ENERGY HAD BEEN CONSIDERED
"POSITIVE" BY ITAMARATY SOURCES.)

3. CONDE ALSO NOTED THAT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT MOU,
TODMAN EMPHATICALLY RECOGNIZED THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE
OF BRAZIL AND LEFT NO DOUBT CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE AT A HIGH-
ER LEVEL, MORE FREQUENT AND BROADER THAN WITH OTHER LATIN
AMERICAN STATES. CONDE CONCLUDED FROM SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS
TODMAN REPLY REGARDING REPORTERS DRAWING THEIR OWN CONCLU-
SIONS ABOUT FUTURE OF MOU, THAT MOU WOULD CONTINUE TO BE
VALID. HE ADDED THAT TODMAN HAD CONFIRMED A VANCE-SILVEIRA
MEETING.

4. CONDE ALSO CONCLUDED THAT TODMAN VISIT BROUGHT TO CLOSE
BRIEF PERIOD OF DIFFICULT RELATIONS BETWEEN GOB AND US.
IMPORTANT LESSON TO BE LEARNED BY GOB WAS THAT CARTER
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GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BACK DOWN IN PRINCIPLE FROM SUPPORT
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND LIMITING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.
SILVEIRA HAD BEEN IMPRESSEDBY LOFTY WORDS AND LETTERS
OF KISSINGER, CONDE ADDED, BUT AFTER THE EMOTION OF THE
FIRST MONTHS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION, IT WAS TIME TO
CONCLUDE THAT WHILE SAYING LESS, CARTER ADMINIS-
TRATION WAS MORE FRANK AND PROBABLY SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT IT
SAID. ESTADO EDITORIAL MAY 17 ALSO REACHED SAME CONCLUSION.

5. IN OBVIOUS LEAK FROM FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE,
BRIEF NOTE IN MAY 15 JORNAL DO BRASIL COLUMN BY CARLOS CASTELLO
BRANCO CLAIMED THAT REPORTERS HAD RECEIVED AN EVASIVE ANSWER
FROM TODMAN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE MOU. CASTELLO BRANCO
NOTED THAT WHEN SILVEIRA ASKED WHETHER OR NOT MOU WAS VALID,
TODMAN TOLD HIM "I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT."
MAY 14 O GLOBO ALLEGED THAT DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CLAIMED ASST.
SECRETARY IN MEETING WITH SILVEIRA RAISED NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION
AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. PAPER CLAIMED THAT ACCORDING TO DIP-
LOMATIC OBSERVERS FACT THAT ITAMARATY KNEW IN ADVANCE TODMAN

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WOULD RAISE THESE ISSUES, LED TO COLDNESS REFLECTED TOWARD VISIT BY THE FOREIGN MINIQWRY. (COMMENT: IN FACT ASSISTANT SECRETARY RAISED NEITHER ISSUE WITH SILVEIRA END COMMENT.) CORREIO BRASILIENSE HEADLINED IN ITS COVERAGE OF MEETINGS AND PRESS CONFERENCE "US MAKES SELF-CRITICISM" AND STRESSED TODMAN COMMENTS TO EFFECT THAT US STILL HAD ITS OWN PROBLEMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO SOLVE, RELEGATING TO SECONDARY HEADLINES OT SR ASPECTS OF VISIT.

6. MAY 15 PRESS ALSO REPORTED ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT, NOTING THAT GOB/USG RELATIONS HAD ALREADY DEMON-STRATED AN IMPROVEMENT. JORNAL DO BRASIL SAID TODMAN EXPRESSED GREAT ENTHUSIASM FOR CORDIAL RECEPTION IN BRASILIA, THUS HELPING TO DISPEL ILLUSION OF "BRAZILIAN COOLNESS" PRESS HAD ORIGINALLY REPORTED ON EVE OF VISIT. JORNAL DE BRASILIA NOTED THAT PRESENCE OF SILVEIRA AT DINNER WITH TODMAN HAD DEFINITIVELY ALLEVIATED TENSION WHICH HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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OCCURRED OVER ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S ALLEGED COMMENTS IN CARACAS. JORNAL DE BRASILIA ALSO COMPLIMENTED ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLE FOR HIS GOOD HUMOR AND "ABSOLUTE LACK OF OSTENTATION". FOLHA DE SAO PAULO NOTED IN EDITORIAL THAT BRAZIL PRIDED ITSELF IN BEING A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY, BUT THAT IN REALITY IT WAS NOT AS ADVANCED AS IT SHOULD BE. IN POINTING TO EXAMPLE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, FOLHA INDICATED BRAZIL HAD NO BLACK PEOPLE OF COMMENSURATE RANK IN POLITICS TODAY.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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OMB-01 ACDA-07 COME-00 OES-07 /099 W
----------182044Z 066979 /75
R 181820Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1685
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 3989

7. BRAZILIAN PRESS OF MAY 17 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO MAY 16 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE CLAIMING TODMAN HAD BEEN RECEIVED COOLY IN BRAZIL AND INCLUDED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S ASSURANCES THAT TODMAN'S PROGRAM IN BRASILIA HAD BEEN CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF PREVIOUS VISITING SENIOR US OFFICIALS. BRAZILIAN PRESS ALSO REPORTED HEAVILY ON CRITICAL STATEMENTS ABOUT BRAZIL BY FORMER VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT ROMULO BETANCOURT IN JORNAL DE CARACAS. BETANCOURT REPORTED AS CHARGING THAT BRAZILIAN LEADERS DIRECTED THEIR "ILL-WILL" TOWARD CARTER AGAINST TODMAN DURING HIS VISIT TO BRASILIA. BETANCOURT NOTED THAT TODMAN WAS NOT RECEIVED AT THE AIRPORT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HAD NO AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL, WHILE THE "CONTROLLED PRESS DID NOT CONCEAL ITS DISPLEASURE AT HIS PRESENCE."

8. REFTELS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND OTHER PRESS REACTION TO VISIT.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL03989
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770177-0264
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770546/aaaabnbz.tel
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 RIO DE JANEIRO 2265, 77 BRASILIA 3888
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2476853
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONCLUDING PRESS COMMENTARY ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN\'S VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, (TODMAN, TERRANCE A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1f0a6e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009